september.strawberryjuice.org

Scans: amyused Translation: fencer_x

Cleaning: gabriela Typesetting: fencer_x

本誌初登場!!
イノセ
On a moonlit night…
rises the feast of beasts!
Chapter 1
銀狐と黒狼
(ぎんこんとくろおおかみ)
Black Wolf and Silver Fox

The school I attend is one for young Beastlings, ages 10-25.
Our classes are divided by species, as is the content of our lessons.
The Lupina faction is wolves and dogs.
ALL RIGHT, THAT ENDS TODAY'S LESSONS.
The Feline faction is lions and leopards.
And our Vulpine faction is foxes, similar and yet something else entirely from the dogs and cats.
THE ADMINISTRATION DIVISION HAS POSTED A NOTICE REGARDING THE TRADITIONAL CEREMONY TAKING PLACE SOON, SO BE SURE TO READ IT.
YOU'RE DISMISSED
CLATTER

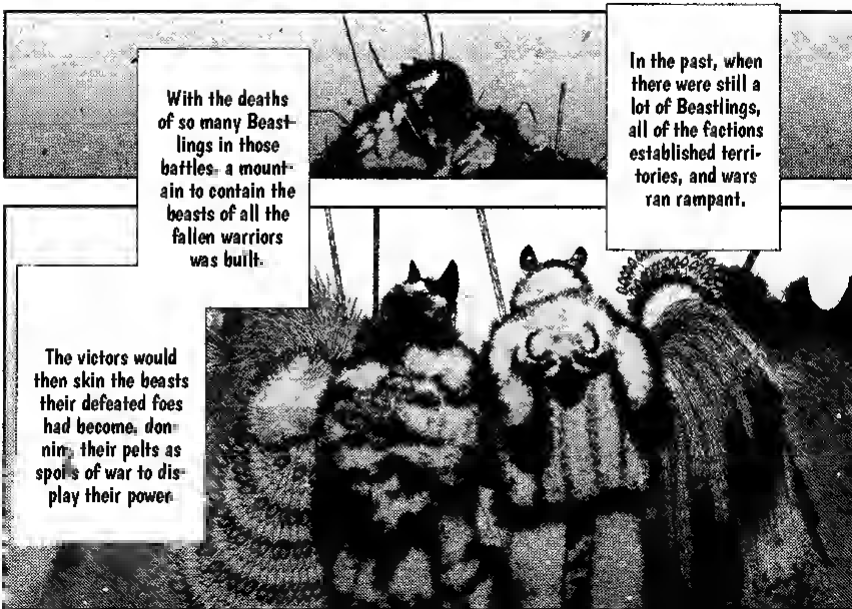
SORRY!!
DON'T RUN IN THE HALLS!
dash
I'M HEADING OUT!
BYE!
GOTCHA!
CENTER
WELL YEAH, SINCE WE'VE GOT THE LUPINE CLASS RIGHT NEXT DOOR. I KINDA UNDERSTAND HIM!
SO I SEE KUZUNOHA MADE YET ANOTHER OF HIS MAD DASHES AS SOON AS HOMEROOM ENDED.
I know I'm safe here at school.
WHY IS HE SO SCARED OF THEM??
FOXES HAVE NEVER BEEN AT ALL THAT GREAT AT DEALING WITH WOLVES TO BEGIN WITH, BUT HE'S GOT A FULL-BLOWN PHOBIA!

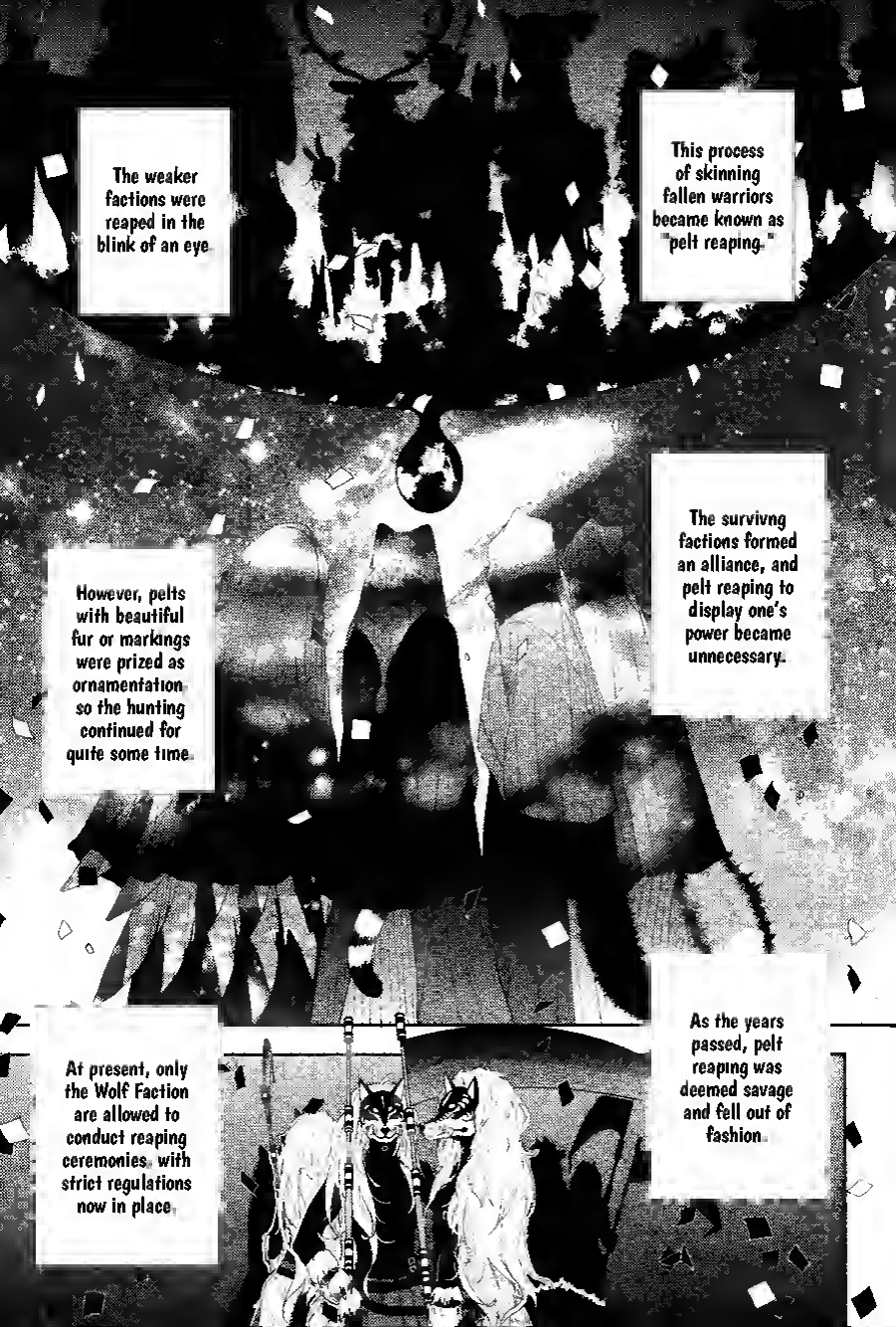
THANK GOODNESS I MANAGED TO AVOID THE WOLVES TODAY...!
But still, wolves scare me.
HIS FUR'S OF TYPICAL, NORMAL TYPE AND COLOR, SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR HIM TO FEAR THEM LIKE THAT...
GOOD AFTERNOON, SENSEI.
AFTERNOON FIRST AGAIN, EH? KUZUNOHA-KUN.
The counter... Wolves rarely come to the library, so I should be fine.
PUMPED
Let's do this!
YES, OF COURSE.
TODAY'S THE DAY FOR RETURNS. CAN YOU MAN THE COUNTER FOR ME?

I'D LIKE TO BORROW THIS BOOK!
O...Okay...
SURE
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THIS RETURN!
SLIDE SCARY
SO BIG
TOO CLOSE
DO YOU HAVE A LIST OF BOOKS YOU'LL BE IMPORTING SOON?
COULD I GET PERMISSION TO LOOK AT ONE OF THE RARE BOOKS?
LET ME ASK THE LIBRARIAN.
APPARENTLY THEY'RE REGULATIONS REGARDING THE PELT-REAPING CEREMONY.
Why are there so many wolves here today...??
SLUMP
HEY, KUZUNOHA! THE LIBRARIAN TOLD ME TO GIVE THIS TO YOU.
A BOOK DETAILING THE RULES FOR TRADITIONAL EVENTS...?

YEAH...
I GUESS...
BUT FUR REAPING'S ONE OF THOSE OUTDATED CUSTOMS, AND THEY'D NEVER INVOLVE US, WITH OUR BORING OLD FUR.
IT'S BEING DISTRIBUTED TO ALL OF THE SECOND-YEARS WHO ARE OF-AGE.

'KAY!
When Beastlings die, we go back to being wild beasts.
I'M GONNA GO RESHELVE THESE BOOKS


In the past, when there were still a lot of Beastlings, all of the factions established territories, and wars ran rampant.
With the deaths of so many Beastlings in those battles, a mountain to contain the beasts of all the fallen warriors was built.
The victors would then skin the beasts their defeated foes had become, donning their pelts as spoils of war to display their power.


The weaker factions were reaped in the blink of an eye.
This process of skinning fallen warriors became known as "pelt reaping."
However, pelts with beautiful fur or markings were prized as ornamentation so the hunting continued for quite some time.
The survivng factions formed an alliance, and pelt reaping to display one's power became unnecessary.
At present, only the Wolf Faction are allowed to conduct reaping ceremonies with strict regulations now in place.
As the years passed, pelt reaping was deemed savage and fell out of fashion.

This book outlines the rules of pelt reaping.
Those who are targets for reaping:
crinkle
bearing a pelt of worth.
not of any extremely rare breed which is in danger of dying out,
not raising any children themselves,
single, with no dependents,
Adult males,
Pelt reaping is typically only performed in the Starlight Forest.
However, special traditional events are announced separately.
SWOOP
STAR FISH...?
SWOOP
SWISH
OH YEAH, THEY POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD THAT THERE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A STELLAR SHOWER TODAY.

JUMP
EXCUSE ME, DO YOU WORK IN THE LIBRARY?
YES!
Characteristics of those Wolves who are allowed to engage in pelt reaping include...
clank
clank
clank
I'VE GOTTA HURRY AND RESHELVE THESE BOOKS AND GET OUT OF HERE
WITH THIS MANY FLOATING AROUND, IT'S BOUND TO START POURING ANY MINUTE NOW!

I'M LOOKING FOR A BOOK ON PHARMACOLOGY...
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE PHARMACOLOGY SECTION IS..
...being wolves with the largest from of their faction...
and having long black hair.

COULD YOU SHOW ME WHERE THEY ARE?
But their major defining feature... are their mismatched eye colors of blue and gold.
AH-
I-I DID!
DID YOU NOT HEAR ME?
I'M SORRY!
MISMATCHED EYES...
IT'S A PELT REAPER...

RATTLE RATTLE
STEP
STEP
STEP
THE PHARMA-COLOGY TEXTS ARE THIS WAY...
I'm...
botany
THE INTIMI-DATION OOZING OFF OF HIM IS TERRIFYING!
SO SCARY!
WHAT IF HE JUMPS ME FROM BE-HIND...?!
LOOM
I'M SO SCARED.
STEP

!
UWAH!
TOPPLE
HEY.
JOLT
YESH?!
BUMP

grab
!?

eep.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HEY, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
SLUMP
SO CLOSE! SO SCARY!
I...
...!!
twitch
tremble tremble
tremble tremble tremble tremble tremble

PL-PL-PLEASE PAY ME NO HEED, I'M FI...
YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE YOU WITH THE WAY YOU'RE TREMBLING AND HOW PALE YOUR FACE IS?
R-R-REALLY! I'M PERFECTLY OKAY...!!
ARE YOU FEELING ILL?
EEK!!
R OF
...THERE'S REALLY NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU?
His voice...
Glance
As if I could ever admit that YOU'RE the one scaring me!!
SHUDDER
SHUDDER

gulp
It's actually kind of nice...
...OR NOT.
NOPE. STILL SCARY.
EEK!!
I AM ABSOLUTELY POSITIVELY 100% FINE!!
GRAB
WELL? ARE YOU OKAY??
ARE YOU BULLYING THAT POOR CHILD?
I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED YOUR VOICE!
OOH, WHAT'S THIS?

SHIROU?
OTOMIYA.
A Feline?
HE'S JUST A LIBRARY WORKER
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA
Do these two know each other?
HE DOESN'T QUITE SEEM YOUR USUAL TYPE ..CHANGING TASTES ON US?

OUCH, THAT'S PRETTY HARSH!
PLUS, I'VE NO INTEREST IN FUR OF THIS COLOR.
'This' color...
land
BUT I CAN KINDA SEE WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM, SHIROU...
PHRASING THINGS LIKE THAT IS GONNA MAKE HIM BREAK INTO TEARS...
...OF JOY?! WHY IS HE SO HAPPY? IS HE A MASOCHIST?
Whew!

HE'S GOT SUCH A CUTE FACE! IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S WASTED ON HIM
IT SUCKS HIS COAT LOOKS LIKE THIS—
ruffle
IT'S ALL STIFF AND DRY, TOO!
HE'S JUST TOO SHABBY—
OI!
"It it's fine—
I'm sorry!
HUH? THAT QUALIFIED AS BEING MEAN TO HIM??
YOWK
CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S TERRIFIED? DON'T BE SO MEAN TO HIM!
SO EVEN YOU LIKE TO PICK UP GUYS WHILE YOU PICK UP DOCUMENTS, HUH!
DON'T CONFUSE ME WITH YOU—
but these two seem to get along...
I always thought cats and wolves were on bad terms, fighting for supremacy,
I WAS LOOKING FOR SOME DOCUMENTS FOR WORK.
BY THE WAY, SHIROU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THIS KID IN A LIBRARY YOU'RE UNAFFILIATED WITH?

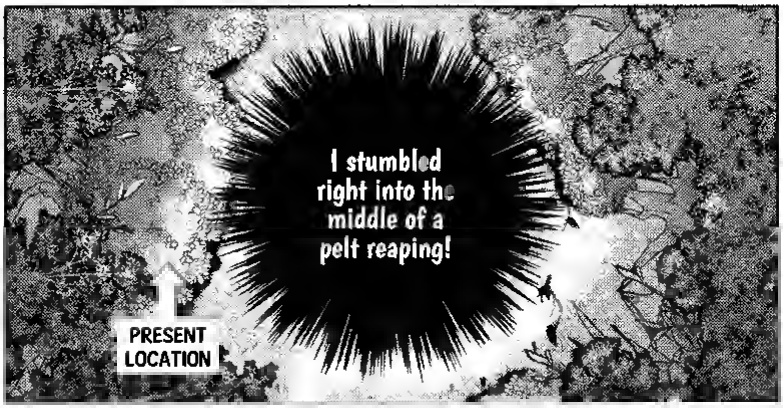
EH?
HEY, FOXY! DO YOU WORK IN THIS LIBRARY? I'LL HELP YOU ORGANIZE THAT CART!
AH...
THANK YOU.
JUMP
reach
FWIP
AND TO SHOW MY GRATITUDE TO YOU FOR HELPING ME FIND MY TEXTS, I'LL HELP TOO.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
Maybe this person is a nice wolf...

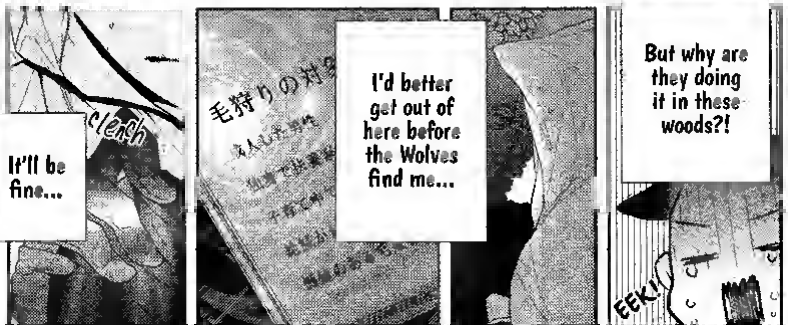
UGH, THE STELLAR SHOWER'S REALLY COMING DOWN.
THAT STUFF COMES OFF MORE EASILY DURING STELLAR SHOWERS, SO I'D BETTER PUT MORE ON, JUST IN CASE—
HUH...?
empty
I FORGOT I WAS OUT.
wilt
OH...
glance
glance
I THINK I'LL BE OKAY...
THIS FOREST SHOULDN'T BE ONE WHERE THEY DO PELT REAPING.
IF I CUT THROUGH THE WOOD OF WAILS, IT SHOULD BE JUST A 10-MINUTE RUN TO THE GENERAL STORE.
LET'S GO!
tug

OFF TO GO SHOPPING AT THE OLD OWL'S GENERAL STORE!
dash
OH, SENSEI!
IT'S SUDDEN, ISN'T IT? THEY DECIDED ON THE WOOD OF WAILS?
THEY DID.

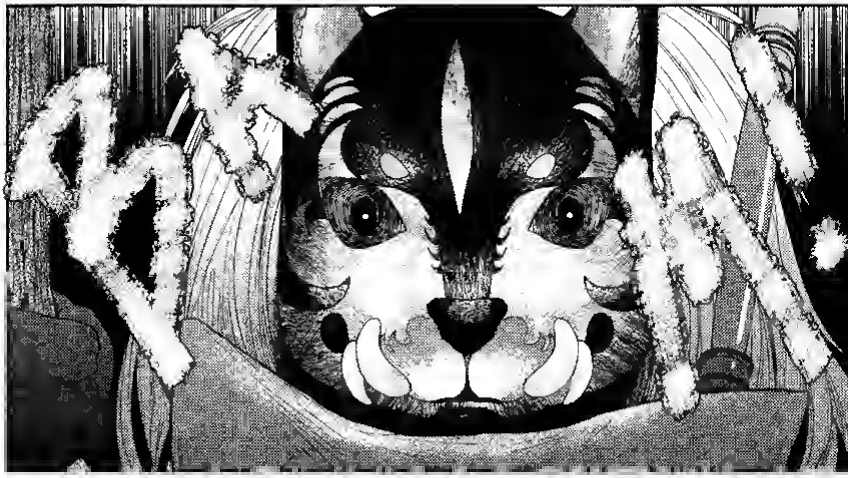
WARNING:
Today at sundown, a Traditional Event will be held in the Wood of Wails. Authorized personnel only.
WELL, IT'S A TRADITIONAL EVENT, AFTER ALL.

Wh...
What do I do?!


I stumbled right into the middle of a pelt reaping!
PRESENT LOCATION


It'll be fine...
CLENCH
毛狩りの対象
I'd better get out of here before the Wolves find me...
But why are they doing it in these woods?!
EEK!

rustle
OKAY!!
The stellar shower should have stopped by now, so if I go full-speed, even if my hood falls off, I'll probably be fine!
Right!
...is what he said!
"I'VE NO INTEREST IN FUR OF THIS COLOR."

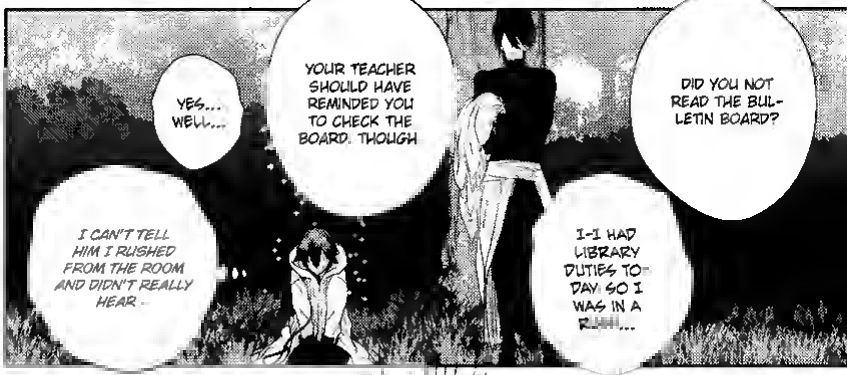


sshh...
plip
LANCE

Who-hoo!
Who-hoo!
WELL WHAT HAVE WE HERE, HM?
THIS JUST WON'T DO...
EEEEEK!!

I got caught right away...
THIS IS UNEXPECTED...SOMEONE NOT FITTING THE REAPING CRITERIA HAS WANDERED IN...
AND FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, HE'S PROBABLY NOT A VOLUNTEER FOR PREY, EITHER.
NOW WHAT ARE WE TO DO WITH YOU?
THE RULES FORBID US FROM REAPING SOMEONE WITH A PELT LIKE THIS...
Things are looking up for me!
BUT IF WE RELEASE HIM, HE MIGHT GET MISTAKEN FOR PREY, AND THAT WOULD BE EVEN MORE TROUBLE.
LET'S LEAVE HIM TIED UP HERE WITH A GUARD SO HE DOESN'T WANDER AROUND UNTIL THE HUNT IS OVER.
OR NOT.
THAT SEEMS BEST.
I'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER...
.. TO GUARD HIM

IS THAT SO? THEN YOU'RE JUST THE WOLF FOR THE JOB
This person, he's from earlier...
The Wolf I showed around the library!
HE AND I GOT TO THE SAME SCHOOL.
He's a Reaper and yet he's helping me?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?

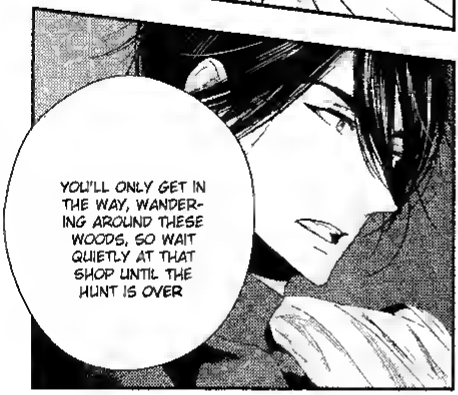

DID YOU NOT READ THE BULLETIN BOARD?
I-I HAD LIBRARY DUTIES TODAY SO I WAS IN A RU...
YOUR TEACHER SHOULD HAVE REMINDED YOU TO CHECK THE BOARD. THOUGH
YES... WELL...
I CAN'T TELL HIM I RUSHED FROM THE ROOM AND DIDN'T REALLY HEAR--

BESIDES, WHAT BUSINESS COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE IN THE WOODS AT THIS HOUR?
BARK
HIS LOGIC HURTS.
I-I'M S-SO-RRY...
!!!
WELL WE MADE SURE EVERYONE WAS INFORMED, SO YOU CAN'T COMPLAIN IF YOU GET SKINNED WHEN YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANDERED IN HERE.

I ENTERED THE WOODS TO GET TO THE GENERAL STORE...
ON A STORMY NIGHT?
YOU'RE A STRANGE ONE...
TH-TH-TH-THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE!
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO MATE WITH, YOU'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK FINDING A PARTNER IN TOWN, I THINK.
THAT'S THE ONLY PLACE THEY SELL SOMETHING I DESPERATELY NEED, SO...
ALL RIGHT
.....

SHOCK
EH?!

I'LL TAKE YOU TO THAT SHOP.


YOU'LL ONLY GET IN THE WAY, WANDERING AROUND THESE WOODS, SO WAIT QUIETLY AT THAT SHOP UNTIL THE HUNT IS OVER

THE HUNT WON'T BE AFFECTED BY SOMEONE WHO'S NOT EVEN PREY DISAPPEARING.
IT-IT'S ALL RIGHT??
WHAP
WHAP

Th...

Thank goodness!
THANK YOU!
Ah!
nmph
He smiled!
He really must be a nice wolf.
AH, RIGHT!
LET'S GO.
SO WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
STEP
STEP

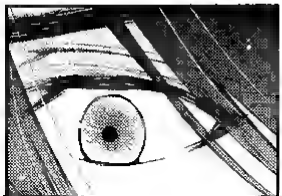
I'M SHIROU AS I'M SURE YOU'VE NOTICED I'M A WOLF
OH, UH...I'M A FOX...AND MY NAME IS KUZUNOHA.

flop
glint
glint
EH...?

YOU'VE GOT LEAVES ALL OVER THIS HOOD OF YOURS

KUZUNOHA?
IS THAT YOUR FAMILY NAME, THEN?

OH NO--IT'S MY GIVEN NAME.
MY FAMILY NAME IS, WELL



COVER
UWAH!
POOF
!?
!?

DID I MAKE HIM MAD?
UMM...?
glance
glance
IT'S GETTING CHILLY. KEEP THAT HOOD UP.
close
EH? OH, UH, OKAY...
WHOA!
LET'S GO!
tug

I SEEM TO HAVE FOUND SOMETHING VEEERY INTERESTING--
Someone watching in the dark... Kuzuonha's in danger...!
continue